

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SEC-01 PRS-01 PA-02 L-03
/040 W

-----040009Z 012418 /13

P 032351Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2659
INFO AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS OTTAWA 01257

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ETRD, MILI, CA, US

SUBJECT: SEC BOEING INVESTIGATION--CANADIAN ASPECTS--II

1. BOEING QUESTION RAISED IN HOUSE OF COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD MARCH 3 AND FEATURED PROMINENTLY IN AFTERNOON OTTAWA, TORONTO AND MONTREAL PAPERS. MINISTERIAL REPLIES TO OPPOSITION QUESTIONS WERE BLAND. DEFENSE MINISTER DANSON SIMPLY NOTED NEED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION FROM SEC BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER FULL GOC INVESTIGATION NEEDED. SAID THAT AS INTERIM MEASURE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT FILES ARE BEING SEALED TO MAKE SURE ALL INFO WILL BE AVAILABLE IF NEEDED. TRANSPORT MINISTER LANG NOTED THAT AIR CANADA IS CHECKING ALLEGATIONS ABOUT IT, BUT HAS FOUND NOTHING TO DATE.

2. FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS FROM OTTAWA CITIZEN ADEQUATELY SUMMARIZE AFTERNOON PAPERS' TREATMENT OF STORY:
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QUOTE. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT SAID WEDNESDAY THAT CANADIAN AUTHORITIES WERE NOT INVOLVED IN AN INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED PAYOFFS BY BOEING CO.

'WE HAVE RECEIVED NOTHING OFFICIAL ON IT. WE WERE

AWARE FROM NEWSPAPER REPORTS THE INVESTIGATION WAS UNDER WAY, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING OFFICIAL. 'THERE HAVE BEEN NO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION OR TESTIMONY BY CANADIANS. THEY DON'T NEED CANADIANS TO FIND OUT WHAT THEIR OWN AMERICAN CORPORATIONS ARE DOING, I GUESS.'

AN AIR CANADA SPOKESMAN AT THE AIRLINE'S MONTREAL HEADQUARTERS SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED AN SEC REQUEST FOR INFORMATION BUT 'THAT'S ALL WE KNOW ABOUT IT.'

AIR CANADA PRESIDENT CLAUDE TAYLOR SAID, 'OUR POSITION IS THAT WE HAVE HAD ABSOLUTELY NOTHING FROM THE SEC ABOUT THIS, AND CAN'T COMMENT UNTIL WE DO.'

EVEN IF THE U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC) WERE TO TURN UP EVIDENCE THAT AIR CANADA OFFICIALS ACCEPTED IMPROPER PAYMENTS TO PURCHASE BOEING JETS, 'IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND IN AIR CANADA ANY PERSON WHO GOT A BUCK,' AN AIRLINE SPOKESMAN SAID WEDNESDAY.

PETER JEROME, HEAD OF PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED AIRLINE, SAID SO MANY AIRLINE EMPLOYEES AND EXECUTIVES WERE INVOLVED IN DEALINGS WITH BOEING THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ISOLATE WHICH, IF ANY, COULD HAVE USED INFLUENCE IMPROPERLY.

'ANY PURCHASE OF AN AIRPLANE MUST CARRY FOUR UNCLASSIFIED

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SIGNATURES, IN ADDITION TO THE SIGNATURE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.'

JEROME SAID NO INTERNAL INVESTIGATION IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE AIRLINE. UNQUOTE. LEARY

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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